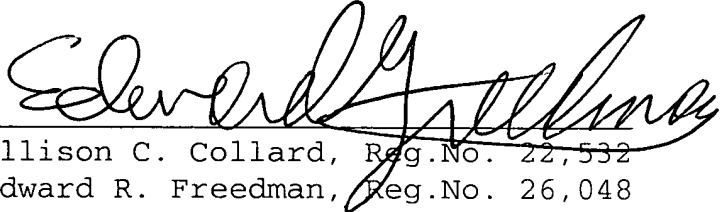


**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1 and the claims have been amended to improve their form and to delete the multiple dependencies. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
WOLFGANG BARNIKOL ET AL. - 2 (PCT)

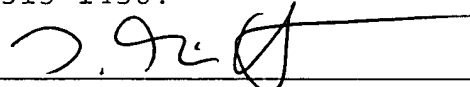


COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802  
ERF:jc

Allison C. Collard, Reg.No. 22,532  
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No. 26,048  
Attorneys for Applicants

Express Mail No. **EV 493 841 465 US**  
Date of Deposit - **December 17, 2004**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Ingrid Mittendorf